

THE AMERICAN MCALL RECORD

PUBLISHED BY THE

AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

1713 SANSOM STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Subscription Price: Four numbers with Annual Report, postpaid, 50 cents. Club Rates, ten or more subscriptions, to one address, 40 cents a year. Club Rates do not include the Annual Report. Single copy, 15 cents.

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Entered at the Post Office, Philadelphia, Pa., as second-class matter

The AMERICAN McALL RECORD

VOLUME XXXXVIII

March, 1930

NUMBER 2

THE FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

of the

AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

will be held at the

HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA

Chestnut and Thirty-ninth Streets, Philadelphia
Wednesday and Thursday
May 7th and 8th

Chairman of Hospitality MRS. ABRAHAM R. PERKINS 1713 Sansom Street Philadelphia, Pa.

It is news of exceptional interest that Monsieur Chastand, Director of La Mission Populaire, will arrive in America on March 10th, for a two-months' stay. The Association has not yet announced his programme, but it goes without saying that he will be most welcome and, doubtless, wanted by more auxiliaries than he will have time to visit until the Annual Meeting, where his presence will be an unusual inspiration.

The following account has come from the Paris office:

Miss Jessie Patterson, the devoted President of the Paris Auxiliary of the American McAll Association, arranged this year again a concert which, through the kindness of Dean Beekman, was given in the Pro-Cathedral on December 7th. The organist of the Cathedral, Mr. Lawrence Kilbourne Whipp, rendered beautiful selections from Guillmant, Faulkes, Borowski and Straus. The chorus choir of the Mission, directed by Pastor Bertrand, sang Bach's "Anges du Ciel" and the cantata with solo and finale from Gounod's Gallia.

Musicians who were present expressed their keen appreciation both of the organ recital and of the choir which, composed entirely of amateurs, demonstrated that goodwill and talent can be found together.

We heartily thank all those who contributed to this delightful musical hour and, especially, Miss Patterson, who unfortunately was not able to be present.

The sum of 6000 francs on behalf of the Mission was realized.

More and more, as the years have come and gone, the Mission Populaire and the American McAll Association have contributed to an entente—a better understanding between the

two nations. It is, accordingly, with deep interest that we note the establishment in the near future of two new centers in New York where Franco-American activities will be furthered.

The first of these is the new building of the Eglisc du Saint Esprit. Because of the continual arrival of immigrants in New York, the Eglisc du Saint Esprit through its three centuries has maintained a vital relationship with France. According to its pastor, the Reverend Doctor John Albert Maynard, "as a French church there is none more French in America; and as an American church there is none more American, if history counts for anything. It is in harmony with the noblest aspirations of my religious faith," Dr. Maynard adds, "for the Church of the Holy Spirit to strengthen, or to help establish among Americans, both those of French descent and others, acquaintance with the best in the life of France today and, on the other hand, also to help the visitor and immigrant from France to see that which is truly great in America."

The Palais de France, a sixty-five story building, will be erected on the site of the Century Theatre and will house a hotel, trade headquarters, the French consulate, an art gallery and an industrial museum. The first three floors will contain permanent exhibition rooms where products of French factories will be shown. "The structure," according to M. Armand Meggle, general director of the Committee, "will, we believe, be one of the greatest and most important buildings of the present day. It will centralize intellectual and economic organizations related to both France and the United States, thereby rendering a great service to both countries." At a luncheon given last summer in Paris to Mr. S. W. Straus and Mr. Irwin S. Chanin, head of the Chanin Construction Co., Mr. Straus said: "I cannot see any better way from a practical, commercial and ethical point of view to cement the great admiration and friendship France and America have for each other." At this luncheon, the announcement was made that a large part of the stock by which the building will be financed will be set aside for French public subscription.



MEMORIAL TO THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS AT ST. NAZAIRE

This monument, designed by Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and erected by popular subscription in America, is another symbol of the Franco-American entente. The figure of the soldier is over fifteen feet high and it is to be noticed that, as he alights in France, it is in the rôle of a crusader, for he carries not a sword but a cross. Mrs. Whitney is at the moment in France gathering data for the design of the monument to Marshal Foch, to be erected in this country.

A belated report reaches us of the renewed activities of Mme Catherine Booth-Clibborn (*La Maréchale*). The "Committee of the Marshal's Friends" issued, from 1 Rue Pierre Levée, the McAll headquarters, the following invitation:

At the express desire of the Marshal, her friends will continue the religious gatherings which began in the Salle Gazeau, in October. These gatherings, of a more intimate character, are especially for those who were so moved by the Marshal's campaign that they have expressed a desire to have these spiritual meetings continued. You are invited to come to the first of these meetings which will be held on Sunday, October 21st, in the large auditorium of the Mission Populaire.

As reported in the Record for January, 1929, Mme Booth-Clibborn held a series of meetings in Paris at which, over twelve nights running, audiences of 1,200 persons sat spellbound. At that time M. Chastand offered the help of the Mission for the continuation of this work and the first Sunday night following there were 500 persons present in the *Pierre Levée* auditorium.

The Bible-woman at the *Maison Verte*, Mlle Lanquine, writes: "Our new dispensary is well under way. Every day the nurse, Mlle Castillon, takes care of at least a dozen children and on Tuesdays the doctor examines adults as well. The special Gospel meetings have brought to us many new recruits. Many persons have given us their names in order to receive notices of our gatherings."

A free-thinker said to Mlle Lamande on one of her rounds in Marseilles, "It is useless to insist on talking religion in my house. What, however, are the grounds of your own beliefs?" On being answered as briefly and simply as possible, he said with some astonishment, "What is the Mission Populaire? You might let me have the address." His wife who feels the need of religion asked Mlle Lamande to pray and as she stood in the doorway on leaving the wife exclaimed, "If only you could bring us some happiness!"

On the Thursday following Christmas, at the close of the Bible School at the Faubourg Saint Antoine, a pretty branch was cut from the Christmas-tree and six or seven little girls accompanied by Mlle Liénard went on a visit to two humble rooms, in which were kept by illness a couple of the Faubourg's members. The children climbed the stairs as silently as possible and great was the surprise of the two invalids at seeing their rooms invaded by the fresh, young faces. The candles were quickly lighted, the lamp put out and the little girls sang lustily, "My Beautiful Fir Tree." By the light of the candles the story of the Saviour's birth was read and, following a prayer, the fresh young voices again sang a Christmas hymn.

THE HOME STRETCH

A survey of the Mission's financial status, as per the latest figures received from M. Chastand, causes the double reaction of gratitude and of concern.

The most encouraging item in the figures is the list of gifts made by parents whose children went to our Vacation Colonies, a list which shows their increasing appreciation of the value of the colonies to their children. A total of 90,885.50 francs was given from this source. It is the hope of the Paris Committee to be able in the near future to give the benefit of these summer outings to a much larger number. Friends interested in the welfare of French childhood and willing to help in the extension of this splendid work may make their contributions on the basis of 5 francs per day for each child, 35 francs per week and for the period from August 1st to September 15th (46 days) 230 francs, or \$9.

The reverse side of the picture is not so reassuring. The cost of installation, alterations and up-keep of the various colonies has run into a large sum, with the result that at the present time there are deficits as follows:

Coqueréaumont...222,195.17 francs, or nearly \$9,000 Stade Coligny....10,338.38 francs, or over 400

Outside the Vacation Colony accounts, there are other disquieting figures. The Maison Verte has now installed the last feature in the enlargement of the plant, namely, its dispensary, but this has left a deficit of about \$650. There is a deficit in the Pension account of nearly \$200, while the alterations and enlargement at La Bienvenue, in Paris, have cost nearly \$2,000 for which, as yet, no special funds have been provided and which will greatly overtax the Mission's General Fund.

All of which, encouraging as much of it is, and from the point of view of the Mission's development as all of it is, nevertheless presents a serious challenge to the American McAll Association and its auxiliaries as the last month of the fiscal year arrives. It has become a proverb widely repeated that M. Chastand's dreams have an uncanny way of coming true.

These "dreams" represent ambitions for the Mission's development which, splendid and prophetic as they are, "put it up" to the director's friends and co-workers both in the United States and Canada, on this side of the ocean, and in Great Britain and the continental countries from which contributions come, to stand by to the point of heroism and sacrifice, that this moment of opportunity among the French people be not allowed to pass unimproved.

When the March Record appears, there will be but a month to go to the closing of the treasurer's books. "It is not the first mile-post, but the last that tells the story; not the outward bound steed, but the one on the home-stretch that we note as victor," so wrote Frances E. Willard, in the Hare and Tortoise. With but thirty days remaining, it is needless to point the moral more closely.

THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW FRATERNITÉ AT ROUEN

EMMANUEL CHASTAND

(At the Annual Meeting of the Association at New Haven, last May, \$20,500 was pledged. Of this amount about \$12,000 was given for the much-needed new building at Rouen.—Editor.)

The old barracks of the Scotch army which since 1920 sheltered the work of the McAll Mission at Rouen are gone. In their place has been erected a splendid and comfortable building, with an auditorium seating 500 persons, a home for the *concièrge*, baths and, presently, there will be also a dispensary.

This new building is a well-deserved reward for those who have worked and are still working so faithfully at the Mission's task in Rouen, namely, MM. Jacques Lafon, LeBerre, R. LeGoff and at the moment M. and Mme M. Lafon, M. and Mme Riebel and their new helper, the trained nurse, Mlle Deransart.

The building was made possible by the generous help of our Christian friends in the United States and our gratitude goes out to them and to God who inspires their love for the Mission Populaire. Dear American friends, I wish you might

have been with us on Saturday and Sunday, the 14th and 15th of December, when our splendid, new conference hall was inaugurated. Foreseeing that there would be a great crowd, it was decided to utilize two days for the inauguration ceremonies and even so we had not room enough. On Saturday evening there were more than 800 there and almost as many on Sunday afternoon. The people were crowded to suffocation as they listened indoors and out not only to the music, the special "revue" prepared for the occasion, but also to the addresses of MM. Beigbeder, Chastand and Lafon who once more outlined the end and aim of our work, namely, "to love, to serve, to save."

A word as to the "revue" itself. In this, M. Lafon displayed one by one the diverse activities of the Fraternité. It was charming to see the Louvetaux (Wolflings) passing in their happy circle, but it was also beautiful to see on the stage the "Mothers' Meeting" where two courageous women of eighty years sang one of the hynns in full voice. The "revue" ended by a tableau representing a large book, the Bible, carried by one of the representatives of each activity. This book was opened and everybody in the audience could read the words of Christ, "Love one another," while the choir sang, "Let us close up our ranks around our Master." It was a note of joy, of brotherhood and of faith from the beginning to the end of the programme.

The inauguration was an event in the entire quarter of the city. Two assistants of the mayor were present at the $f\hat{c}tc$ of which the local press gave a generous account.

Dear friends, what would have perhaps pleased you most of all was the joy of our co-workers in having at last a "plant" so beautiful and so up-to-date. They have bid me express to you their deepest gratitude.

The *Fraternité* of Rouen, although young, has already behind it a splendid past of conversions, of redeemed drunkards, of reunited families, but a yet more splendid future is in sight. Of this the faith and the zeal of our co-workers, as well as the goodwill of God and your faithful friendship, are the assurance.

* * * * *



M. Riebel, the devoted assistant of Pastor Lafon, sends us an account of the recent doings at Rouen from which we have culled the following:

"Last week was one of unusually hopeful experiences in the Blue Cross. The meetings were all good, in particular those for men. Many prodigal sons came back after lamentable falls. A young workingman, converted some months ago, is showing a radical transformation and will not be long, I believe, in following the example of others of his class who have given us the greatest encouragement. He is already rendering much help in the Daily Vacation Bible School and among the Wolflings. Naturally of a rich nature, his life is a deeply spiritual one.

"We sent to the Vacation Colony, at Coqueréaumont, sixty-five children and yet, from the beginning of our Daily Vacation Bible School here, there was an average of sixty children out of an enrollment of seventy-two. Owing to the construction work on the new building, we were often obliged to take the children into the nearby woods for the day, a delightful experience both for them and for us. After those at Coqueréaumont returned, these excursions were an impressive sight as we marched along through the streets, the children singing at the top of their voices.

"The children learned twenty-five new hymns during these outings and daily before starting home we gathered the group together for a farewell prayer. A part of every day was given to the teaching of the Bible, in particular, the most marked characters of the Old Testament and now we are doing the same with the characters in the life of Jesus."

FRENCH WOMEN

André Siegeried

(Many readers of the Record are familiar with André Siegfried's delightful book, "America Comes of Age," and will welcome this article recently written for McAll Junior Groups. It is of special interest following his valuable article, "The French Mind," in the December Atlantic.—Editor.)

The part played by the French woman in modern French life is often misunderstood. Although this may seem to many

Americans a somewhat paradoxical statement, I should be tempted to believe that in no other country is woman co-operating so closely in the life of the nation.

France cannot be well understood if one does not constantly bear in mind that the individual and the family are of greater importance than the State. Papers will tell you of endless political crises, of bitter feuds between parties; but the true life of the country does not center in these quarrels, "full of sound and fury" as they may be. Behind the too much advertised political scene, you will find the individual working and the family continuing, faithfully and endlessly, its constructive work of social and moral order. A superficial public opinion will too readily believe France to be on the verge of chaos, while a silent and powerful effort of the French people will have prepared the most amazing recoveries. And we can safely say that, in every case, it is the French people who did it.

The French woman is the real cornerstone of the family, not only as a mother, but also as a wife. The way in which the French marry is not generally well understood. The considerations when a marriage is going to take place are complex. They are not limited to the personalities of the two individuals who are going to share a common life; the profession of the husband, the social position of the household, the future of the children are considerations which generally are not neglected. Strange to say, in that country of somewhat excessive individualism, marriage is more of a social institution than anywhere else. I daresay that it is the strongest social institution of France.

With such a conception of the family, the French cannot marry lightly. The law, of course, demands the approval of the parents, but, even when the law is not at stake, the parents are usually consulted; and even when sentiment commands the choice, there is nearly always deep consideration of what life will be for the new couple. The wife, in most cases, expects to share as much as possible the life of the husband, and not only his private life in the home, but his professional life. This is mostly noticeable among peasants and in the lower middle classes. If you visit a farm, you will find that the woman knows all about the activity of the place; and, if you think of

a small trade anywhere in France, you will very quickly realize that the wife very often is the living spirit of the concern. Such a statement would be hardly less true in many other social activities of the country. It is very rare that a French woman does not know the trends, conditions and circumstances of everything in the practical and professional life of her husband.

This fact—because it is a fact—explains, better than anything else, how France, during the war, could continue to live and even to produce, when two-thirds, if not three-fourths, of the men were mobilized and taken either to the front or to the army. The land was cultivated by women, helped by children and old men; all the small trades, and often many a big trade, were kept alive by women. All of this was done successfully by a feminine activity which proved to be extraordinarily efficient. When I hear foreigners speak of the French woman as being socially backward, I think they never have seen or known a French woman.

There appears, at this point of the discussion, the very quality which allows the French woman to share the responsibility of the family, I mean individualism. Most of the people in France, whether women or men, are accustomed to think as personal units; they do not accept a ready-made truth or a ready-made conception of what their life will be. The consequence is that, when they have to face difficulties, their initiative is ready to solve unforeseen and new problems.

The recent developments in feminine education and social activities simply have encouraged that traditional tendency of the French women to take a growing share in the general life of the nation. French society cannot be said to be composed of men attending to business and women attending to home work; its very personality lies in the collaboration of the two sexes. We do not think that any strong intellectual culture could be possible if it were trusted to women only, and our best industrial achievements, such as in the Mode and Fashion trade, should be traced to women's initiative.

Such a strong cement of coöperation is the basis of the French family, but not less of French civilization, and every Frenchman, I think, is aware of it. I wish foreign public opinion would realize it also.

THE ROULOTTE IN THE ZONE

JEAN SILL

The Mission Populaire, always on the alert for new opportunities for evangelization, has recently established an "advance post" in the Zone, at the very gate of Paris.

On one side of the *Porte de Montreuil* is Paris, with its six-story apartments, offering the last word in comfort to their tenants, while just across the *barrière* is the Zone, the broad low-lying area on which have sprung up like a lot of toadstools small barracks of wood or sheet iron, some even made out of sardine boxes, without mentioning the gypsy vans, or old railway coaches transformed into dwelling places. An exceedingly dense population occupies these tottering palaces (*châteaux branlants*), the larger part of which goes to Paris at night to collect from the garbage cans everything which is capable of being sold, like old papers, old rags—the most heterogeneous possible collection. Hygiene, even the most elementary, is utterly ignored in this habitat without water, gas, not to mention electricity.

In order to do something in the way of reaching this population, the *Mission Populaire* has placed in the midst of these barracks a *roulotte* in which every Thursday fifty children from three to ten years old are gathered. The joy with which these children welcome me is touching. The moment one of them catches sight of me, a mob of little urchins ("gosses") running from all corners of the place tumble over each other to see who shall be the first to bid me good-day. Once salutations have been exchanged and after having shaken a hundred hands, for each holds out his two hands, each one dirtier than the last, there is a second stampede to see who shall reach the *roulotte* first.

The minute they get inside, they take the seats assigned to them before long tables placed on each side of the *roulotte*. Part of the afternoon is given to manual training, making designs, coloring pictures, building things with blocks, all of which they greatly love. For the older ones there is a Bible study in which with the aid of pictures with texts the life of the Saviour from His birth on is taken up. The difficulty of

this can be understood when it is realized that out of the fifty children only four or five know how to read and write. They show the greatest desire to be instructed and ask me to teach them to read. They go to the Montreuil school only two days a year, the day of distribution of shoes and that of clothes—this being all that they get out of it and their parents rob them even of this by selling the things they bring home.

If you have never seen children who do not even know their own names, I invite you to go with me and to let me present to you two little girls who not only are ignorant of their names but even of the identity of their fathers and mothers. They answer to these two names, the one, "potato brat," because she eats only potatoes, and the other, "baby." My young friend, the potato brat, to whom I had refused the credit mark for cleanliness, announced triumphantly the following Thursday, "Monsieur, mama is going to wash me on Saturday!"—or just ten days afterward.

A poor woman of the most wretched type of all who lives with her nine children in a veritable rabbit hutch, a single room without any furniture, with only straw for a bed, invited me to her "home" to present me to her latest born, a little boy of two months, about the size of a string bean, who was asleep on the ground in a bed of the filthiest straw.

The population, more than grateful for the Mission's work, welcomes us most heartily and in proof of this on a recent Thursday I was able to have a religious talk in a *roulotte*, a talk which lasted nearly two hours, during which time I had to stand stooped over, because if I had stood up straight my head would have gone through the roof. The only seat in the place was a cooking stove and this was red hot.

There is a splendid opportunity to work among these poor children some of whom are very intelligent, as is proved by the facility with which they learned the words of the hymns we taught them for Christmas, even though not knowing how to read. They feel all the love which we give them and it is our desire that they shall give themselves to Him Who has sent us into their midst on His mission to teach the little child.

* * * * *

A Christmas-tree in the Zone is a most important event, to judge by the degree of excitement on the part of the children enrolled in the *Roulotte* classes. They had heard stories of the tree at the Montreuil school and were fairly weeping with envy and jealousy.

It required more than an hour to call the roll, the children were so crazy with joy. All of them knew the names of their next-door neighbors, but, curiously enough, not their own names. In one family, for instance, consisting of a little girl and two boys, there were three surnames, each child having a different father. A small boy coming from no one knew where gave proudly the name and surname of his grandfather, his own father's name being unknown to him. The "potato brat" could not tell the date of her birth, nor her own name, but was at once identified because of the morsel of bread in her right hand and the two or three potatoes in the other. She lives with a woman who with her eight children was abandoned by her husband and who lives in the greatest misery in a wooden hovel without any furniture and with straw spread over the floor as the only bedding. The oldest son, twenty, ought to be earning his own living, but he is a deaf mute with the face of a veritable brute.

The problem confronting us was to find a hall for the occasion, because the Roulotte was entirely too small and the weather did not allow of our holding the celebration out of doors. The squatters spontaneously offered to undertake to arrange the matter and on Christmas Day one of them told me with great satisfaction that the "official saloon keeper" of the settlement would give us a sufficiently large room. This man received me very kindly and put his $caf\acute{e}$ at our disposition, refusing all remuneration and adding that he was more than happy to help us in our undertaking in this poor district.

Everybody was then told that the Christmas-tree would be set up at half-past four, on the 28th of December, in the café.

From two o'clock on, while we were dressing the tree, the children hung around the door, splashing in the mud, regardless of the rain, until the hour for the celebration arrived.



THE CHRISTMAS-TREE IN THE ZONE

In the twinkling of an eye, the place was invaded! Mothers with babies in their arms wanted seats in the front row, chasing away three or four boys who had already installed themselves there. Finally, everybody was seated and at the exact hour, after a vote of thanks to the café-keeper, the short programme was carried out.

On hearing the Christmas story from the Bible, heads were uncovered and the silence was as impressive as the confusion of the preceding minute, to be broken shortly by the voices of three big boys as they recited very well the verses which they had learned only a few days before. When the song, "My Beautiful Fir Tree," was shouted out by all the children, one wondered that the windows were not shattered. It was the same thing again with the hymn, "Jesus Bids Me Shine." For little urchins who can neither read nor write, they set an example that might well be followed by the children of some of our regular Sunday Schools. Choruses and Christmas hymns were then played on the phonograph.

Three stories, of which two were told by the Director-General of the Mission, were listened to with mouths wide open. Joy broke out again at the sight of the boots of Father Christmas who, not being able to be everywhere at the same time, had saved one day for the children of the Zone, and that the distribution of oranges, bread and chocolate was a great success goes without saying. Every child showed a touching concern for his numberless little brothers and cousins. "Monsieur, my little cousin had to stay home with my big sister!" There was a package for each child who is enrolled and comes regularly to the *Roulotte*, carefully wrapped up and marked with his name and containing some plaything, a garment and an almanach.

It was, indeed, a happy day and we thank God who permitted us, with the generous gifts received in response to our appeal, to create a little of His joy in the midst of these children who although still young, exhausted by the privations of their hard life, have already the manner of grown people. May God's light shine in their hearts and may they come to realize that it is for love's sake that we come to them with hands held out in the Name of Him Whom we would teach them to know and to love.

PROGRESS AT THE SAINT QUENTIN FRATERNITÉ

M. PAYOT

(It has been felt for some time that perhaps the Fraternité on Rue Cambrai ought to be handed over to the care of the local church and the Mission's work concentrated on Mlle Prevost-Brouillet's Maison Fraternetle, at the other end of town. The following, however, would seem to indicate a new life in the Fraternité which was the first building opened for religious work after Saint Quentin was re-taken by the French following the four dire years of German occupation.—Ed.)

December was a month of work, of joy and of light! The increase in the attendance at the *Fraternité* was constant. At our meetings new faces were seen and of these the majority continue to come to us. The Christmas *fête* was a great success, notwithstanding the competitive laic school celebrations. We had the privilege of speaking of Christ to more than two hundred and fifty persons. Large and small alike received a little gift which will serve as a souvenir of the delightful day. The film, Christmas Night, was followed with enthusiasm and the children sang with the greatest zest.

On Watch Night, there were 400 present. After some hours of good fun and good fellowship, the hall proved entirely too small, but the Gospel address evidently made a profound impression upon many hearts and souls. All left with happy faces promising to return and attach themselves permanently to the *Fraternité* group.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE $MAISON\ VERTE$

Pastor A. Jalaguier

At four o'clock on the afternoon of December 26th, a group of children filled our large hall. If all those enrolled had come, I do not know what we should have done, but colds and grippe kept a good many at home. The talks given by Pastors Couve and Laroche, as well as the children's singing, were highly appreciated. Both in the distribution of gifts and in the good-nights splendid order was preserved. To avoid the jam of last year, every child had to present a strictly personal card.

On the 28th, the tree was relighted for the grown-ups. An interesting musical programme was rendered, among other selections a choral of Gounod, accompanied on piano and organ. A most impressive and spiritual talk was given by M. Chastand, captivating everyone present. Thirty persons were there whom we had never seen before, many of them young.

For the first time and as a fitting close to our Christmas *fĉtes*, we held a Watch Night meeting from 9 until 12 o'clock, on December 31st, at which 140 were present. The programme of songs and recitations was carried out perfectly and on the stroke of midnight a Bible reading, followed by a prayer, opened the year 1930 in a delightful, fraternal atmosphere.

These *fêtes*, together with the religious service on Christmas Day, which was followed by a largely attended Communion Service, will long remain blessed memories in the hearts of many.

AROUND THE CHRISTMAS-TREE AT ST. ETIENNE

C. Huguet

A frightful storm preceded our Christmas *fête* on December 22d. We were dreading to have our little children come out in such weather, but before the time came for them to leave home the wind had subsided, as we had prayed that it might.

Long before the hour set for the party, the children began to arrive and our instructions to look after their coats and umbrellas and to keep as quiet as possible were repeated. In the autobus in which we came to the hall we picked up a grandmother with the two children of her daughter who had died two years before. The last touches were given to the decorations until the place had the veritable air of a *fête*. The hall filled rapidly and two of our friends began lighting the candles, to the great joy of all. After the old popular song, "My Beautiful Fir Tree," the exercises began with a song rendered by our girls. The little ones were pleased enough with the tree, but the sixty-five packages on the table on the platform fascinated them most of all. Our "terrible René" whispered into the ear of the boy next to him, "That is a small package in front, but look at that big one behind it!" The songs were followed by

recitations and two duets by girls not yet six years old. One of these was so anusing in her little red dress, slightly disarranged, her mouth wide open and her lines coming with such broken breaths, although with such evident enthusiasm, that after a general laugh there was the loudest kind of applause. Next came a little boy with a recitation in verse on the umbrella. After he had spoken the first two lines and lifted his umbrella, he had not the courage to go on and precipitated himself into the arms of one of our helpers who did her best to console him!

The specifically religious part of the programme followed and the celebration ended with an announcement of our weekly schedule and a word with regard to the dispensary which had been opened the week before.

Mme Huguet was proud to display to the audience of ninety-five adults and seventy-five children a beautiful shawl made by a little girl of twelve who during the year had made also a comforter and the rest of a complete outfit for the baby brother of her family.

But the most interesting part of the occasion was yet to come, namely, the distribution of oranges, candy bags, assorted cakes and last but not least, the beautiful blue packages. "Who is going to get his package first?" a little chap called out in a loud voice. In a big package of old playthings and second-hand clothes, René hunted in vain for his parcel and finally cried out, "Mlle, Mlle, my package, it is not there!" A little Polish girl found the doll she had so much desired and rushed with it into the arms of her mother. The thank-yous of the children will come later. Meanwhile, at the door as the crowd went out there were many adult expressions of gratitude. "My children have never been so spoiled!" said one of our newcomers to one of her neighbors.

As we hurried to put the hall in order for the meeting which was to follow, we could only ask that God should bless our efforts and our grateful appreciation goes out to all of those who have helped us by giving us of their time, their prayers, their money and their gifts—dear friends, both near and far, and above all those in Brooklyn.

LA VILLETTE

PASTOR E. LOCKERT

(The brilliant young preacher, Pastor Lockert, is the son of M. Lockert, who for so many years directed the Mission's work at Amiens.—Editor.)

I believe it was Binet Valmer who said in one of his recent books, that it is not so much parents who bring up children as it is children who bring up their parents. This phrase has a double sense: Before one can be fully developed from the moral and psychological point of view, he must first have the experience of training others. God, also, does not create men so much as individuals alone, but as links in the great chain which carries life along on earth, while awaiting the marvelous day of the new heaven and the new earth in which the terrestrial life will become the life of God in perfection, the day when we shall know even as we are known.

From the spiritual point of view, there are in our McAll halls not teachers and taught, but co-workers accepted by God to carry on His work. This I feel from reading the reports of our helpers at *La Villette* and in thinking of what our children and our adults do for us. How often evangelical workers hear the voice of God in some remark, some exclamation, some act of faith which one would not have expected from a soil which seemed so arid. It seems as though the desert blossomed at God's bidding, as though He said to the preacher of today as He once said to Jonah, "Under My breath it has grown in the night."

I know that deeply religious characters are all too rare, but when I am seized by impatience or weariness, I recall the advice of one of the Presbyterian counselors of my first parish: "Monsieur, you must cultivate the garden of the manse." "Why, to prove to visitors that the pastor works?" "Yes, perhaps," he replied with a mischievous smile, "but more especially to learn patience, to understand that it requires time for the seed to spring up and still more time before the harvest comes to maturity."

I would in my present report emphasize certain experiences which have meant so much to Mlle Gardiol, Mme Parisse and

myself, experiences found upon our way in the attitude of our children, of our adults, even of the aged, as lessons of patience, hope and faith.

First of all, however, let me speak of the general progress of the salle: Our desires remain the same, namely, we should have a better location with a playground for the children. We need, notwithstanding the faithful help of Mme Fourtot, on Thursdays, of Mme Parisse, on Mondays and Thursdays, of Mlle Voisin with the Band of Hope and of MM Flament and Vareille, students at the theological preparatory school in training for the pastorate, regular helpers for the Boy Scouts and Wolflings. Also we need a doorman to bring in the passersby, a service which is so useful at Salle Sébastopol and in which we have had the help for many years of a man who, alas, is now obliged to retire on account of the infirmities of age.

Our programme is a varied one. Sunday evenings and the first Tuesday evening of the month, there is the strictly religious service for adults; on the third Tuesday a religious discussion; on the fourth Tuesday a social gathering and on the fifth Tuesday the Blue Cross and the Band of Hope. The



MADEMOISELLE GARDIOL'S THURSDAY SCHOOL

Mothers' Meetings are on Monday afternoons and the Y. P. S. C. E. on Sunday afternoons. There are also regular Sunday and Thursday Bible Schools, divided into two groups according to age.

This beehive does not yield all the honey one could desire, some of the bees are drones, but I feel, nevertheless, that the year has been one of progress for which I bless God.

* * * * *

Following M. Lockert's account of the systematic courses of Biblical study and other subjects attended most conscientiously during the year, Mlle Gardiol, these many years the ever faithful and devoted Bible-woman of *La Villette*, narrates a series of touching incidents in connection with the work there, a few of which are repeated here:

A little boy begged his grandmother to wash and dress him more carefully, because, he told her, he had noticed that his teacher kissed only those children that were nice and clean.

Three brothers, two of whom were at *Coqueréaumont* during the summer, have grown much more polite and kind. The youngest, of four years, knows by heart many of our hymns and sings them at home. "I love so to hear him sing, it is such a change from the vulgar songs I hear from his father," his mother said.

A little girl of twelve brought in one day a small parcel of clothes which she had outgrown, asking that they be given to another child who was wretchedly clad. Sometime afterward her act was imitated by another little girl who, when asked why she had done this, replied, "Because I love her."

It fell to me to follow to the cemetery a young woman of twenty-five who was leaving a baby of fifteen days to the care of an almost blind husband and a brother-in-law, entirely blind since his fourth year, whom they had taken in on the death of his father. The husband and wife during their court-ship had been brought to the hall by their aunt, one of our converts. Little by little they began to understand the Gospel message, thanks to the fidelity of this aunt. Their marriage was solemnized in the church of Montmartre. They had five years of happiness, of work and of mutual devotion. The blind

husband used to sell brushes and brooms in the markets, his wife leading him through the streets. They were more than happy when their child was born. But what should be done with the motherless baby? At the hospital the father learned that, in view of all the circumstances, the baby could be taken in for six months, but after that it would be necessary to place her with a foster mother at a charge of 300 francs a month. The poor man could not pay this sum. Would it be possible to find a kind godmother who would take an interest in the family, so tried and so worthy of help? Up to the moment of writing, all reports I gather on my visits to this sad household are hopeful.

Mme M...., aged eighty-four, has been sick for a long time and has been expecting her death in the near future. For some months she has been confined to her bed and until recently has had a frightful fear of dying. An attack of paralysis, however, made a remarkable change in her. "I am no longer afraid to die," she said, "I am happy at the thought of joining my husband and nine children." Eight days later she sang with a trembling but quite strong voice one of her favorite hymns, "While I Live I Will Bless God." "I truly can bless God," she says, "for he has left me two sons and a grandson who are all so good to me that I want for nothing. My grandson takes the best of care of me and when I tell him that I must be a great burden to him, being always ill, he kisses me and rebukes me for my words." Since he was a tiny tot he has been coming to the Bible School. He is now twenty. Every Sunday he goes to church and when he gets home gives his grandmother a résumé of the sermon.

THE WORK OF A NURSE-EVANGELIST

MLLE LUCIE GRASSMUCK

The number of treatments at the Nantes dispensary was 708, as against 667 last year. House visits were 422, as against 537. This does not imply that there was less illness than the preceding year, on the contrary, an epidemic of grippe raged for three months with unusual severity, but visits to

those suffering from this trouble are not so much for the sake of treatment as for advice and distribution of medicines. There has not been one case of death in our *clientèle*, but many families have had many members sick abed at the same time and often the breadwinner has been laid up just at the moment when the inevitable charges for doctors and medicines came. A change in regard to civic medical aid has taken place to the great disadvantage of the larger number of sick people, so that it is difficult to get help in moments of emergency. As it is, the slightest illness is a catastrophe for the workingman's family.

The children of the *Ecole de Garde* have had the benefit of regular medical oversight, the care of their teeth and examinations of throats and eyes. Four children were secured glasses from the Aid Society. Many of delicate health have been X-rayed and sent to the Fresh-Air School in the outskirts of Nantes, or to some other establishment. Our situation has been made easier in proportion as our circle has enlarged. It has been simplified by the fact that under the new civic regime our *rôle* consists often in being the *liaison* agent between the different organizations. This means quicker results with less loss of time. We would add to this the readiness with which our advice is accepted and followed by families who have known the *Fraternité* for a long time.

To say that this social work bears direct fruit from the point of view of the Gospel would not be exactly true. Some families, however, have learned the way to the *Fraternité* and come to our *fêtes* and meetings, following a visit of the nurse to give a hypodermic to one of the children, or advice in some difficult situation. It could hardly be otherwise, for the only pay we ask for our services is attendance at our meetings. This work assures the reputation of the *Fraternité* as a whole and thus is not without influence, but is, nevertheless, an altogether inadequate response to the needs of the weary and heavy-laden who surround us. It is difficult to describe to those who have not seen it with their own eyes life in a workingmen's quarter. In a street near the *Fraternité* there are two houses where one has to climb not a stair but a ladder. What can one say as to the conditions of the families who live in such hovels? It

reminds us of the word of William Booth, "It is not easy to save the man whose feet are wet." It is not easier to lead to a dignified and normal life those who must breathe in a cube of air at the end of a rear court where misery, tuberculosis and alcoholism live together.

In the midst of the sorrows all about us, it is nevertheless given to us to gather the fruits of the Gospel, to realize to what a degree the Fraternité since its inception has become a sanitarium for souls. Not to speak of the activities entrusted more directly to the nurse-evangelist, there is the women's monthly prayer meeting of which the atmosphere is often most impressive, serious and home-like and to which come faithful friends whose existence is otherwise perpetual slavery. Our infant class at the Thursday School is always crowded. From the responses which the children make, we often gain an insight into the home conditions of the larger part of them. They sing with enthusiasm and all love the school, as their mothers often testify. Stories illustrated from sand tables leave permanent memories. The story, for instance, of the daughter of Jairus was followed with deep interest, yet to the question, "Where does one go when he dies?" the only reply from several benches was, "One goes into the hole"! It was rather difficult for them to realize that the grave does not hold all, although the explanations given remained in their memories as we found out the following week.

The Girls Christian Endeavor Society continues its encouraging progress. The numbers have grown each year and the members realize their responsibilities as such. Seven Unionists and their president were able to assist at the regional camp and the Union of the *Fraternité* was represented at the regional conference at Angiers by thirteen delegates. But it is not numbers which give us our greatest cause for gratitude. It is the transformations which are accomplished. Some weeks since an isolated young girl who had had many struggles with herself, but who found herself in the condition described in the Acts, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks," came to a decision which might have been fatal for her soul-life and wanted to break away entirely from the *Fraternité*. We could not say anything further to her, but we could pray for her. In

time she changed her mind. The stirring days of the Blue Cross campaign stimulated her to this new decision. From that moment we have been able to pray together many times and now, although she had been so unhappy only a short time since, a veritable Christian joy shines in her face. These beautiful flowers of the Christian life grow, however, and are a marvelous testimony to the power of the Gospel.

* * * * *

"So is the Kingdom of God," said Jesus, "as if a man should cast seed into the ground and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up he knoweth not how." It is this word which comes to mind as we look over the activities of the year. Our efforts cover many forms from giving injections and treatments to participating in *fêtes*, to the instruction of our catechumens and to as many visits as our full programme makes possible. The unity of all we do is to be found in the end in view.

HOME DEPARTMENT

New York

The Auxiliary held its annual luncheon on Monday, January 6th, at the Women's University Club, about sixty being present. The speakers were Miss Susan S. Boice who, with the aid of lantern slides, told the story of her visits to the McAll stations during the past summer, and Professor André Morize, of Harvard University, whose theme was "The Mutual Friendship of France and America." Brief words of greeting were spoken by Mrs. Horace W. Bigelow, of the City Mission, Dr. George W. Carter, of the New York Bible Society and Mr. Gilbert Colgate, representing the American Waldensian Society.

Miss Boice's invitations continue to come in, her more recent engagements being at the Brick Church, the West End Presbyterian Church, the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas and the French Y. W. C. A., in association with the church of Pastor Elsesser, in West 16th Street, and she has invitations to White Plains, Montclair and other towns. When she spoke at the Marble Collegiate Church, on January 19th, out of fifty young people present only one had ever heard of the McAll

Mission. This makes the more impressive the fact that at the close of her talk a dozen packages were promised for the Prosperity Shop. On January 23d, Mrs. Henry F. Boardman and Miss Boice made a joint talk, with slides, at the Central Y. W. C. A. On February 24th, the Auxiliary took "The First Mrs. Frazer" for a benefit.

The Prosperity Shop Another rummage party, with tea and dancing, under the direction of Miss Edith McCoon, was held on the roof garden of the Hotel St. Regis, on January 2d. This party was held on behalf of the seven charities, including the American McAll Association, which benefit by the Prosperity Shop's work.

Toto and Zinette

Toto and Zinette

The attention of those specially interested in Sunday Schools and in the children's McAll work in general is called to the set of illustrated cards listed under Publications on the inside front cover of the Record. These fifteen cards, "How Toto and Zinette Discovered the McAll Mission," were drawn by the artist, M. Poulbot, after sketches made by M. Chastand. Their humor, as well as the story they tell, would stimulate the interest of hundreds of children and the fifty cents a set for which they sell would be multiplied many times in contributions to the Mission.

Larchmont On January 6th, Mrs. John Strong entertained at lunch the members of the Larchmont Auxiliary, following a meeting at which Mrs. Kelley spoke. In addition to contributions toward the pledges made at the Annual Meeting, several special gifts were made for the Vacation Colony at St. Quentin.

Baltimore At a recent meeting of the Auxiliary, the President, Miss Dora L. Murdock, gave a much appreciated account of her visits to the Mission during the fall. Miss Murdock writes:

"I never visit any of the stations of the McAll Mission that I am not impressed with its spiritual atmosphere and the consecration, patience and hopefulness of its workers. Great intelligence, alertness and quickness to perceive currents of thought amongst the people to whom they minister and readiness to meet these with reasonableness, judgment and love characterize them all. They have countless problems of misguided

thought to meet and direct into safe and hopeful channels and they do it in the faith that the smallest ministration will start an endless wave extending far beyond their ken.

'The communion services where the workers meet, first, to ask help of the 'Comforter' and, then, to discuss their problems, are very impres-

sive. The spirit that actuates them shines in all faces,
"Areueil seemed to me more like going out into the wilderness to seek the lost, wandering and estranged multitude, a district without charm of any kind and made more so by settlers whose ideas of homemaking are most limited. Here a young and resourceful leader has made a station quite replete with pleasure and educational equipment, features entirely missed in what I saw of the neighborhood."

Impressions of their visit to France a vear Worcester ago were given by Rev. and Mrs. Fred Alan MacDonald at a meeting of the Auxiliary on January 6th, in the MacDonald home. Mr. MacDonald described the work of the McAll stations which he had observed in various parts of France. Mrs. Edwin H. Marble presided and Mrs. Emma G. Hall led the devotions. Following the programme tea was served.

Mrs. David M. Miller was the representa-Conference on the tive of the American McAll Association at the recent conference, in Washington, on the recent conference, in Washington, on The Cause and Cure of War. Five hundred

delegates from eleven of the largest national women's organizations, representing five million women, gathered from all except three of the states of the Union, called on their respective Senators to ask them to consider favorably the accession of the United States to the World Court. After much discussion and listening to addresses by General Rt. Hon. Jan Christian Smuts and other distinguished speakers, the Conference reaffirmed its purpose to work for the strengthening of all peace machinery, in order that security against war may be assured, and for the demobilization of the war system as rapidly as it can be replaced by effective peace machinery. Also, that we develop more effectively our cooperation with women's groups working for similar objectives in other countries. There were delegates from England, France, Germany and Japan. The last mentioned brought with them, to be presented to the Naval Conference, at London, a petition signed by one hundred and eighty-five thousand of their countrywomen, asking for reductions in Naval armament.

Buffalo

The announcement comes of the gift of \$1000 by Mr. George W. Benson, as a memorial to his wife. This will be used for an Infirmary at Coqueréaumont, on which will be placed a bronze tablet, inscribed: The Cora Jones Benson Memorial.

Newark

The Auxiliary has devised an original method of raising money for a special fund. This is a series of teas, the first being held January 30th, in the home of Mrs. A. E. Fiske, Maplewood, at which Mrs. Kelley was the speaker. One hundred dollars was contributed for the water-supply at Coqueréaumont. The Maplewood "Fram" will shortly hold a sale called "The Seven Seas." The organization reports a very active winter.

The year's programme began with a meet-Washington ing at the Church of the Covenant at which Miss Congdon spoke. She spoke also in the evening to the Juniors. In November a luncheon was held in the club house of the American Association of University Women, the speaker being Dr. Sizoo, pastor of the New York Avenue Church. Dr. Sizoo comes of Huguenot ancestry, by way of the Holland exiles, and his natural eloquence was illuminated by this reminiscence. On January 22d, the new President, Miss Carhart, spoke at the Church of the Covenant, showing lantern slides and reporting the Presidents' Conference. The speaker for February 11th was Mrs. Helen M. Craig, of Boston, the First Vice-President of the American McAll Association, her subject being, "The McAll Personnel." Annual reports are given and the election of officers takes place on March 26th and the last week of May the members of the Auxiliary will listen to reports of delegates from the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. In addition to these regular gatherings, Miss Carhart has shown her slides at a Christian Endeavor meeting and before the women's Bible class of 300 members in the Calvary Baptist Church.

World Day of Prayer by the American McAll Association enclosing the programme of the World Day of Prayer, on Friday, March 7, 1930. This letter is signed by Mrs. James C. Colgate, representative of the American McAll Asso-

ciation to the Federation of Woman's Boards of Foreign Missions of North America. The Association is thus once more identified with that increasing group of organizations interested in the welfare of the whole world. The theme of the day will be, "That Jesus may be lifted up." Mrs. Colgate writes, "The thought is poignant with meaning for this year 1930—it is the 1900th anniversary of Pentecost." Mrs. Henry W. Peabody's appealing letter on the "Birthday of the Church" will touch the heart of every woman interested in the "World Fellowship of Christian Women" and may be had from the Federation of Woman's Boards, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York, or from the Council of Women for Home Missions, 105 East 22d St., New York.

Hartford At the Auxiliary meeting held at the Town and Country Club on January 16th, with Mrs. Kelley as speaker, announcement was made that \$1275 had been the net result of the December sale. Of this amount \$431 came from the sale of old gold and silver and it was decided to continue such collection, since the large sum cleared in this way came from articles given by about sixty people. A generous offering was made for the water supply at *Coqueréaumont* and announcement was made of a special gift of \$250 for this purpose. Miss Flagg's engagements, as the Record went to press, included Philadelphia, Plainfield, Montclair and Baltimore.

New Haven

The Auxiliary celebrated the fifty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Mission in Trinity Parish House on January 17th, when Mrs. Kelley told the latest McAll news. A delightful reception followed and over the tea cups there was much informal discussion of the provision to be made for the orphans cared for by the Auxiliary.

Easton On January 25th Mrs. Kelley spoke before a large gathering at the home of Mrs. Bixler. A delegation from Belvidere was present and it was announced that Professor Hopkins would address a union service of the Belvidere churches on February 16th. Sympathy was expressed on the death of Miss Martha Thompson who, with her sister, Mrs. Opdyke, did such valiant Relief Work for the Mission during all the years of the war.

JUNIOR NEWS

Miss Congdon, the Field Secretary for Juniors, has been passing many busy weeks in a swing around the circuit from New York and back again, stopping at Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Toronto, Detroit, Toledo, Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, Youngstown, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. She has spoken to audiences of all sizes and sorts, bringing "McAll" to the attention of directors and leaders of young people's organizations, from girls' friendly societies, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, to interdenominational church clubs, local Y. W. C. A.'s, Christian Endeavor Societies and members here and there of the Northfield League. She has been the guest and speaker at monthly luncheons and supper meetings of many young people's organizations.

The primary note that runs through Miss Congdon's report is that of genuine enthusiasm and interest. In Toronto, a luncheon was given at which Senior and Junior McAll members to the number of 188 were present. This was followed by an adjourned meeting where slides of the McAll stations were shown. In Detroit, Miss Congdon found Mrs. Honywill who organized the original Hartford Junior Auxiliary of 400 members and is now making a beginning toward the same thing in her present home. In Dayton, Miss Congdon had the opportunity of addressing a supper conference of twenty teachers of the Week Day Schools of Religion.

Prior to this mid-western trip, Miss Congdon spent an evening early in January with the Hartford Juniors and as the Record goes to press is planning to be in New York again in time for the meeting of the National Junior Committee, on February 28th, at 270 Park Avenue.

On January 15th, the New York Junior Auxiliary held a "Bridge" on the *Ile de France* at which eighty tables were filled and over seven hundred dollars realized.

Miss Congdon's last word is: "Several of the Junior Auxiliaries report progress financially and otherwise. The definite McAll programme of the new groups is encouraging. We do aim to reach our goal! We have only thirty days to go!"

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION FROM AUXILIARIES AND CHURCHES

December 4, 1929-February 4, 1930-\$15,923.77

MASSACHUSETTS, \$996.00	PENNSYLVANIA, \$2,486.02
Boston Auxiliary \$422 00	Dixmont
Pittsfield Auxiliary 188 00	Easton Auxiliary 245 00 Moylan 4 00
Springfield Auxiliary 350 00	Moylan
Worcester Auxiliary 36 00	Warren, Hutchinson Bible
CONNECT1CUT, \$4,436.92	Class 20 00
' ' '	West Chester Auxiliary 80 00 Williamsport 1 00
Hartford Auxiliary\$3,133 52 Hartford Junior Auxiliary 118 00	
Meriden Junior Auxiliary 10 00	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, \$527.12 Washington Auxiliary \$527 12
New Britain Auxiliary 36 00 New Britain Children's Auxili-	•
ary 36 00	FLORIDA, \$36.00 Gainesville
New Haven Auxiliary 1,053 00	
Norwich Auxiliary 50 40	MARYLAND, \$150.00
NEW YORK, \$3,519.89	Baltimore Auxiliary \$100 00 Baltimore 50 00
Brooklyn Auxiliary \$36 00 Buffalo Auxiliary 437 00	MINNESOTA, \$344.00
Cora Jones Benson Memorial. 1,000 00	Minneapolis Auxiliary \$225 00 St. Paul Auxiliary 119 00
Ithaca Circle	· ·
Larchmont Auxiliary 96 00 New York Auxiliary 852 66	MISSOURI, \$50.00 St. Louis \$50.00
Rochester Auxiliary 65 00	***************************************
Syracuse Friends 18 00	OHIO, \$5.00
Troy Auxiliary 949 00 Troy Fram 37 00	Cleveland Junior Auxiliary \$5 00
110y 11am	DELAWARE, \$45.00
NEW JERSEY, \$2,500.98	Wilmington Auxiliary \$45 00
Belvidere Auxiliary \$268 48	CALIFORNIA, \$5.00
Elizabeth Auxiliary 27 50	San Diego \$5 00
Englewood 150 00 Montclair Auxiliary 497 00	Per National Children's Auxili-
Newark Auxiliary 5 00	ary \$27 00
New Brunswick Auxiliary 3 00	Per National Juniors 50 00
Maplewood Fram	Per The Needlework Guild of America 156 00
Plainfield Auxiliary 331 00	Per Sale Christmas Cards 583 34
Princeton Circle 58 50	Per Sale Poulbot Cards 5 50

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR REAL ESTATE

I do give and devise to the American McAll Association the following described property.

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR PERSONAL ESTATE

I do give, devise and bequeath to the American McAll Association the sum of dollars.

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